

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

ATTY.'S DOCKET: RIEL1

In re Application of:	)	Art Unit:
Hans-Werner RIEL et al	)	
	)	Examiner:
	)	
Appln. No.: Not Yet Assigned	)	Confirmation No.
	)	
Filed: September 24, 2003	)	Washington, D.C.
	)	
For: ADJUSTABLE-LENGTH...	)	September 24, 2003
	)	
	)	

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT [IDS]**

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir :

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97, 1.98, and it is requested that the information set forth in this statement and in the listed documents be considered during the pendency of the above-identified application, and any other application relying on the filing date of the above-identified application or cross-referencing it as a related application.

1.This IDS should be considered, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97, as it is filed:

[X] A. within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national application or within three months of the entry into the national stage of the above-identified international application.

[X] B. before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits or before the mailing of a first Office

action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114.

2. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98, this IDS includes a list (e.g., Form PTO/SB/08A) of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the office, either incorporated into this IDS or as an attachment hereto. A copy of each document listed is attached, except as explained below.

[X] A. Document(s) AA-AD is (are) U.S. patent(s) and/or published application(s). As this is a U.S. application filed after June 30, 2003, or an entry into national stage under 35 USC §371 after June 30, 2003, the requirement to file copies of such U.S. patents or published applications has been waived. (Office of Patent Legal Administration - Pre O.G. Notice of July 11, 2003).

3. Document(s) AE-AM is (are) not in the English language. In accordance with §1.98(a)(3), Applicant(s) states:

[X] An English translation of each document AI-AK (or of the pertinent portions thereof), or a copy of each corresponding English-language patent or application, or English-language abstract (or claim) is enclosed.

[X] A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) AE-AM is found in the attached German search report (see reply to Comment 68 in the

[X] A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) AA, AD, AL can be found on page(s) 1, of the specification.

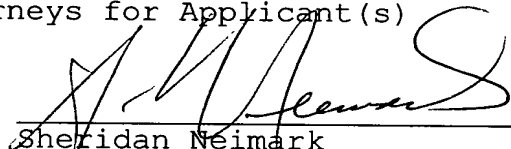
4.No explanation of relevance is necessary for documents in the English language (see reply to Comments 67 and 68 in the preamble to the final rules; 1135 OG 13 at 20).

5. In accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this IDS should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56 (b), or that any cited document listed or attached is (or constitutes) prior art. Unless otherwise indicated, the date of publication indicated for an item is taken from the face of the item and Applicant(s) reserves the right to prove that the date of publication is in fact different.

Respectfully submitted,

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1

of 1

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	Not Yet Assigned
Filing Date	September 24, 2003
First Named Inventor	Hans-Werner RIEL
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	RIEL1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	AA	3,656,593		Fritz BAUER	04/18/1972	
	AB	5,116,028		STABILUS GMBH	05/26/1992	
	AC	5,137,124		STABILUS GMBH	08/11/1992	
	AD	4,949,941		Fritz BAUER et al	08/21/1990	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Number			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	AE	DE	18 12 282		Fritz BAUER et al	06/18/1970		
	AF	DE	100 06 061		KÖNIG and NEURATH AG	09/13/2001		
	AG	DE	39 33 360		STABILUS GMBH	04/18/1991		
	AH	DE	39 31 448		STABILUS GMBH	04/04/1991		
	AI	DE	39 24 309		OBERING. HERMAN BANSBACH GMBH	12/06/1990		
	AJ	DE	37 12819		Johannes LÜBBERING et al	11/03/1988		
	AK	DE	35 22 722		Günther OTTO et al	01/08/1987		
	AL	EP	1 101 972		JOH. STIEGELMEYER GMBH & CO. KG	05/23/2001		
	AM	EP	0 353 550		SUSPA COMPART	02/07/1990		

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T <sup>2</sup>

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.